

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 AID-10 IO-03

EUR-10 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 271150 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3796

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VC

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITERP - 27 JUNE 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG NKP

27 JUNE. REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0230

1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS EXPERIENCING CONTINUED ABSENCE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE REGION DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 27. TEN MILITARY CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS INCREASING SLIGHTLY TO 17 DURING THE FINAL 24 HOURS FOR A TOTAL OF 27. REPORTED WERE 12 GROUND CONTACTS, 15 ATTACKS BY FIRE (FOUR OVER 20 ROUNDS) AND TWO FIRINGS ON VNAF HELICOPTERS (ONE BY TWO SA7 MISSILES IN TAY NINH PROVINCE). ONE CIVILIAN ASSASSINATION (HAU NGHIA) TOOK PLACE AND THERE WERE TWO COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA EFFORTS AT TON LE CHAM. RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE FIVE KILLED, 26 WOUNDED AND FOUR MISSING. THREE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED IN ABF'S. TOTAL VC/ NVA LOSSES DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS WERE SIX KIA, THREE CAPTURED AND TWO AK47'S, ALL DURING THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. TWO COMMUNIST

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RALLIERS WERE REPORTED IN TAY NINH ON 26 JUNE.

2. HIGH MR 3 SOURCES CONFIRMS THAT SAIGON HAS ORDERED ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 AND INTER-PROVINCIAL ROUTE 2 DESCRIBED IN BIEN HOA 228. IMMEDIATE PURPOSE OF HIGHWAY 14 OPERATION IS TO CLEAR ROAD FOR CONVOY OF MILITARY SUPPLIES UP TO SONG BE- PHUOC BINH AREA, BUT RVNAF TROOPS ARE ORDERED TO MAINTAIN PRESENCE AND CONTROL ALONG THESE LOCATIONS TO STRENGTHEN GVN'S HAND IN COMING TPJMC NEGOTIATIONS ON ZONES OF CONTROL AND CORRIDORS. MR 3 TOC LOG REPORTS HIGHWAY 14 OPERATION AS COMMUNIST GROUND AND FIRE ATTACKS AGAINST THE 73 RD AND 84 TH RANGER BATTALIONS.

3. OTHER MILITARY CLASHES DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE OCCURRED IN TAY NINH (SEVEN OF THE NINE ACTIONS BEING MINOR ABF'S, ONE MAJOR ABF AND ONE GROUND ATTACK). INCIDENTS ARE ALSO REPORTED IN LONG AN (2), BIEN HOA (2), BINH DUONG (2), PHUOC TUY (2), HAU NGHIA (1) AND LONG KHANH (1). IN BINH TUY PROVINCE AN ICCS HELICOPTER SITTING ON A LANDING ZONE WAS FIRED ON BY 8 ROUNDS OF 60 MM MORTAR 18 KMS. SOUTH OF TAN LINH (SEE BIEN HOA 227). EIGHT ACCIDENTAL MINING DETONATIONS BY ARVN FORCES ACCOUNTED FOR 11 WOUNDED AND THREE KILLED OF THE TOTAL CASUALTIES REPORTED FOR THIS PERIOD.

4. ARVN 5 TH DIVISION CG BG LICH TOLD CONSUL JUNE 25 THAT HE THOUGHT CONTINUING VC/ NVA CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS SINCE CEASE- FIRE II RESULTED FROM INABILITY OF THE COMMUNISTS TO DISSEMINATE ORDER TO OBSERVE STRICTLY THE CEASE- FIRE TO ALL COMMUNIST TACTICAL UNITS. COMMENT: THIS IMPLIES LICH BELIEVES COMMUNISTS DO INTEND TO OBSERVE CEASE- FIRE, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. END COMMENT. NONETHELESS LICH WAS CONVINCED THAT COMMUNISTS' TACTICS WOULD ULTIMATELY BE PRIMARILY MILITARY. AFTER REBUILDING THE DECIMATED RANKS OF VILLAGE- LEVEL VCI AND GUERRILLAS, THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO TIE GVN MAIN FORCES DOWN WITH GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND THEN STRIKE WITH FULL SCALE OFFENSIVE.

5. COL. TU, CHIEF OF THE PACIFICATION PROGRAM IN MR 3, TOLD CONSUL JUNE 26 THAT HE THINKS VC/ NVA RICE PURCHASES
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WITHIN SOUTH VIET- NAM HAVE A LARGER PURPOSE THAN FEEDING COMMUNIST TROOPS. PURCHASES, AT A HIGHER PRICE THAN PREVAILS IN THE GVN DOMESTIC MARKET, ENCOURAGE VIETNAMESE TO SELL RICE TO THEM. AT SAME TIME, SINCE SOUTH VIET- NAM IS NOT SELF- SUFFICIENT IN RICE, FOREIGN RICE, LARGEMLY AMERICAN, MUST BE IMPORTED INTO VIET- NAM TO MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF SUPPLIES TO COMMUNISTS. THIS FORCES RVN TO SPEND LIMITED FOREIGN EXCHANGE

FOR SUBSISTENCE INSTEAD OF CAPITAL TOOLS TO AID RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AND TO SUBSIDIZE HIGHER PRICED FOREIGN RICE TO BRING ITS PRICE DOWN TO REASONABLE LEVEL. FINALLY, TU POINTS OUT, TO EXTEND TO WHICH MONEY USED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO BUY RICE IS GENERATED OUTSIDE OF VIET- NAM, I. E. PURCHASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL CURRENCE MARKET RATHER TAN THROUGH COMMUNIST TAXATION, IT CONTRIBUTES TO VIETNAMESE INFLATION.

6. IN BRIEFINGS OF CONGEN JUNE 26, PROVINCE CHIEFS OF BINH TUY, PHUOC TUY AND LONG KHANH ALL TOLD THE SAME STORY; YES, THINGS ARE VERY QUIET RIGHT NOW, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PEACE IS AT HAND. NONE TRUSTS THE PRG ANY MORE NOW THAN IN THE PAST. ALL BELIEVE THAT FIGHTING WILL RESUME SOMETIME; IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF WHEM.

WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON11584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730631/aaaajrmz.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980303
Subject: MR 3 SITERP - 27 JUNE 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG NKP 27 JUNE. REPEATED FOR
YOU QUOTE BIEN HOA 0230
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VC
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005